PETER LANG

FEARS AND FANTASIES



Modernity, Gender, and the Rural–Urban Divide

KATE MURPHY

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction 1

Chapter One

Urban Fears and Rural Fantasies in the Early Twentieth Century: The Australian and Transnational Contexts 9

Chapter Two

"Very Decidedly Decadent": The Birth Rate in the Rural–Urban Discourse 51

Chapter Three

Purity and Impurity: Venereal Disease, the Girl Problem, and the Rural–Urban Divide 83

Chapter Four

"The Modern Idea is to Bring the Country into the City": Urban Reformers and the Ideal of Rurality 115

Chapter Five

The "Most Dependable Element of Any Country's Manhood": The Modern Rural Space and Masculinity 147

Conclusion

Modernity and the Reconceptualisation of the Rural–Urban Divide, 1900–1930 185

Notes 193

Bibliography 237

Index 255